

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 08042 151543Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----045683 151549Z /50

O O 151525Z JUL 78 ZFF 4
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN BONN
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 8042

EXDIS FOR MOOSE

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE:

O 151400Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHBC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9957
RUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIER NIACT IMMEDIATE 841
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN NIQKT IMMEDIATE 148
RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE 210
RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE 1390
RUDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE 914
INFO RUFHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 585

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1967

EXDIS

BONN FOR MOOSE

LONDON FON SAUNDERS

PARIS FOR MOOSE

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MO, MR, SS
SUBA: RESOLUTION OF THE SAHARA CONFLICT

REF: STATE 178745

1. WITH NEW MAURITANIAN REGIME IN PROCESS OF SETTING ITS POLICY

FOR SAHARA CONFLICT,
IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO SAY WITH CERTTINTY HOW MAURITANIA WILL
REACT TOWARDS AMENDMENT OF ARMS ACCORD TO PERMIT USE OF U.S.- SUPPLIED

WEAPONS OUTSIDE
MOROCCO'S 1960 BORDERS. MAURITANIAN LEADERS HAVE GIVZAN US CLEAR
SIGNALS THAT THEY WANT TO END THE WAR, NEW LEADERSHIP ALSO SEEMS
PRPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, NOTABLE ON DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
POLISARIO, THAT PREVIOUS REGIME WOULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED. HOWEVER,
MARITANIANS ARE STILL GROPING FOR A FORMULA UNDER WHICH
PROCESS COULD START.

2. CRUCIAL TO MAURITANIAN THINKING WILL BE MOROCCAN CLTITUDE. AS WE
HAVE REPORTED, MOROCCAN EMISSARIES HAVE BEEN IN NOUAKCHOTT ALMOST
CONSTANTLY SINCE COUP, AND MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LAGHDAF
RETURNED HERE FROM RABAT JULY 15 AFTER PRESENTING MESSAGE FRPOM
PRESIDENT MOUSTAPHA TO KING HASSAN. MAURITANIANS CLEARLY FEAR THAT
AN OVERLY DOVISH MAURITAMAN ATTITUDE WILL PRODUCE A VIOLENT MOROCCAN
REACTION, INVOLVING, PERHAPS, A THREAT TO NEW REGIME. WITH POLITICAL
SITUATION HERE IN FLUX, AND WITH LARGE
MOROCCAN MILITARY PRESENEE WITHIN COUNTRY, SUCH A THREAT WOULD
NOT BE IDLE. KING HASSAN'S REFERENCE TO QUOTE RETURN TO REWFON
UNQUOTE IN HIS PARIS MATCH INTERVIEW MAY BE CAUSE FOR ENCOURAGE-
MENT FORTHIS REGIME. NONETHELESS, WE SUSPECT THAT MAURITANIYAN
LEADERS ARE PROCEEDING WITH GREAT CAUTION IN MAKING THEIR VIEWS
KNOWN TO THE MOROCCANS.
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3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR GUESS IS THAT MAURITANIANS
WOULD PREFER THAT A DECISION ONUSE OF AMERIAN ARMS IN SAHARA
NOT BE MADE AT THIS TIME RPT AT THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD
DOUBTLESS BE PLEASED AT NEW EVIDENCE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR MAURI-
TANIAN-MOROCCAN CAUSE IN COLFLICT, THIS SATISFACTION WOULD, IN
OUR VIEW, BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY THREE CONCERNS:
A. THAT OUR SUPPORT WOULD CAUSE THE MOROCCAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS
THE WAR TO HARDEN. SUCH A STIFFENING COULD INCREASE
MOROCCAN HOSTILITY TO MAURITANIAN EFFORTS TO PUSH FOR A
QUONCK, PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT.
B. THAT MOROCCO'S INCLINATION TO WIDEN ITS OWN WARDEFFORT, PERHAPS TO
INCLUDE A HIGHER LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITCY
WITHIN MAURITANIA, WOULD GROW. NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND MINING
COMPANY DIRECTOR GENERAL ANN INFLUENTIAL REGIME FIGURE
ISMAEL OULD AMAR TOLD ME FLATLY THAT THTI REGIME WOULD NOT
WELCOME FURTHER MOROCCAN INTERVENTION IN THE MAURITANIAN PART
OF THE WAR.
C. ABOVE ALL, THAT A DECISION TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT
MIGHT CAUSE THE POLISARIO TO RENOUNCE ITS CEASEFIRE AND RESUME
ATTACKS ON THE ZOUPEPITE-NOUADHIBOU RAIL LINE. AMAR EMPHASIZED
TO ME THAT UNINTERRUPTEDOPERATION OF THE IRON ORE TRAIN WAS

CRUCIAL TO THE EFFORT TO EXTRICATE MAURITANIA FROM THE STATE
FINANCIAL COLLAPSE IN WHICH IT FINDS ITSELF. EXPORT
FIGURES FOR JUNE WERE DISASTROUS, AMAR SAID, AND THIS SITUATION
MUST BE REVERSED AT ANY PRICE.

4. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THE NEW MAURITANIAN LEADERS WANT PEACE
AND IS TRYING TO PERSUADE THE MOAOCCANS TO LET THEM MAKE IT.
THEY HAVE ASKED US TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO PUSH THE MOROCCANS TO SEEK
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND WE DOUBT THAT THIS REGIME WOULD SEE
PERMISSION FOR OUR ARMS TO BE USED IN THE SAHARA AS SERVING THAT
OBJECTIVE.

5. THE FOREGOING ASSESSMENT IS MADE IN A VERY FLUID SITUA-
TION. WE WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. KRYZA
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UNQUOTE.VANCE

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